

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Leslie Candy

New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Leslie Candy Company Boosts Productivity

Client Profile:

Leslie Candy, established in 1949, manufactures assorted candy and other confectionary products that are distributed in 22 states. The company employs 14 people at its facility in Clovis, New Mexico.

Situation:

Leslie Candy saw an improvement in its manufacturing process following the purchase of a new candy production machine; however, it was still facing production and inventory count problems. The New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership (New Mexico MEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, was enlisted to address the issues at hand.

Solution:

New Mexico MEP hosted the initial Lean workshop attended by Leslie Candy employees, which provided a strong foundation for the partnership. Following the Lean workshop, New Mexico MEP visited the Leslie Candy plant and began performing production and manufacturing assessments; identifying ways to increase product flow, simplify the manufacturing process, and improve the product counting method, a method that was affecting the finish line. New Mexico MEP provided an assessment scope that focused on specific equipment: fortex fans, chillers and electric counting eyes. In addition to general product and production assessments, New Mexico MEP met with and observed key Leslie Candy staff to identify undetected issues. At Leslie Candy, it was realized that a lack of materials and team members repeatedly switching from uncompleted jobs to tackle other projects was affecting the production line. New Mexico MEP worked with the company to develop a future state map and action plan. By mapping out current processes with the New Mexico MEP representatives, Leslie Candy team members were able to determine that lack of product and client information were causing delays and inconvenience. Based on Mexico MEP's recommendation to implement an incentive program for frontline employees, Leslie Candy realized a production increase, while lowering overall operating costs.

Results:

* Increased production by 25 percent.

Testimonial:

"New Mexico MEP came in, watched our processes, and provided feedback and solutions. New Mexico MEP helped us to look at our processes in a new way."

Greg Southard, Owner